

2. (Amended) [An] The image processing device as defined in Claim 1, wherein said contact input means comprises photoreceiver means for obtaining [the] brightness data of said display means, and said position computing means computes said contact position by comparing [the] a photoreception timing of said brightness data and [the] a display timing of said display means.

3. (Amended) [An] The image processing device as defined in Claim 2, wherein said display means enhances the image brightness when said contact input means is brought into contact with said display means.

4. (Amended) [An] The image processing device as defined in Claim 1, wherein said contact input means comprises switch means for generating contact signals indicating contact with said display means, and said position computing means begins processing based on the contact signals of said switch means.

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5. (Amended) ~~An image processing device comprising:~~
image processing means for executing image processing to move an object;
display means for displaying an image at an object display position based on [this] the image processing;
contact means [that is] moveable provided and [is] brought into contact with said display means by the operation of a player;
input means [that is] located near said display means and [generates] generating [a] at least one signal for computing [the] a contact position when said contact means is brought into contact with said display means;
position computing means for computing said contact position based on the at least one signal [signals] from the input means; and

~~determination means for determining whether [or not] a prescribed relationship is established between said contact position and said object display position based on [the] a computed [results wherein] result where said image processing means provides prescribed image processing [for] of said object when [it has been determined by] the determination means determines that a prescribed relationship has been established.~~

6. (Amended) [An] The image processing device as defined in Claim 5, wherein said input means comprises a plurality of detectors for sensing sound or vibration when said contact means is brought into contact with said display means, and said position computing means computes said contact position by comparing [the] a detection timing [of] provided by said plurality of detectors.

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7. (Amended) [An] The image processing device as defined in Claim 5, wherein said contact means comprises switch means for generating contact signals indicating contact with said display means, and said position computing means begins processing based on the contact signals [of] generated by said switch means.

8. (Amended) [An] The image processing device as defined in any of Claims 1 through 7, wherein said determination means determines that said prescribed relationship has been established when said contact position is [included] within a predetermined range [for] from said object.

9. (Amended) [A game device, comprising:
an] The image processing device as defined in any of Claims 1 through 7[; and]
further comprising:

point calculating means for awarding points when it has been determined by said determination means that said prescribed relationship has been established.

10. (Amended) [A game device] The image processing device as defined in Claim 9, wherein [the display surface of] said display means includes a display surface that is inclined so that the angle between the perpendicular direction and the normal line of the display surface ranges from 3 to 17 degrees.

11. (Amended) [A game] The image processing device as defined in Claim 9, wherein said display means comprises a protective cover that covers the display surface on which the images are displayed.

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12. (Amended) ~~A [Contact] contact input means [that is] movable provided and [is] brought into contact with a display means by the operation of a player, comprising:~~

switch means for generating contact signals during contact; and
photoreceiver means for obtaining the brightness data of said display means.

13. (Amended) The contact input means as defined in Claim 12, wherein said switch means is a vibration switch.

14. (Amended) The [Contact] contact input means as defined in Claim 12, wherein said photoreceiver means comprises optical fiber for receiving the brightness data of said display means during contact, and a photodetector component for detecting the output of the optic fiber.

15. (Amended) The [Contact] contact input means as defined in Claim 12, comprising a buffer for softening the impact when in contact with said display means.

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16. (Amended) ~~A method for [image] processing images, comprising:~~

~~[an image processing step for] executing image processing to move an object;~~

~~[a display step for] displaying an image based on [this] the step of executing image processing;~~

~~providing [a] contact [input step involving contact] near [the] a display [means] by the operation of a player, and [the generation of] generating a signal for computing [the] a contact position when the contact has been made with said display [means];~~

~~[a position computing step for] computing said contact position based on the signal [signals in the contact input step]; and~~

~~[a determination step for] determining whether [or not] a prescribed relationship is established between said contact position and [said] an object display position [based on the computed results], wherein said executing [image processing] step provides prescribed image processing [for] of said object when it has been determined [in the determination step] that a prescribed relationship has been established.~~

17. (Amended) A method for [image] processing images, comprising:

~~[an image processing step for] executing image processing to move an object;~~

~~[a display step for] displaying an image based on [this] the image processing;~~

~~receiving a contact [step involving] input when a player provides contact near [the] a display [means by the operation of a player];~~

~~[an input step for] generating a signal to compute [the] a contact position when the contact has been made with said display [means in said contact step];~~

~~[a position computing step for] computing said contact position based on the signal [signals in the input step]; and~~

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[a determination step for] determining whether [or not] a prescribed relationship is established between said contact position and [said] an object display position, [based on the computed results] wherein said executing [image processing] step provides prescribed image processing [for] of said object when it has been determined [in the determination means] that a prescribed relationship has been established.

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- execute image processing to move an object;
- display an image based on the execution of image processing;
- generate a signal for computing a contact position when contact occurs within a predetermined distance from the object;
- compute the contact position based on the signal; and
- determine whether a prescribed relationship is established between the contact position and an object display position, wherein the image processing provides prescribed image processing of said object when it has been determined that the prescribed relationship has been established.

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~~22.~~ A computer-readable medium encoded with instructions for directing a processor to:

- execute image processing to move an object;
- display an image based on the image processing;
- receive a contact input when contact occurs within a predetermined distance from the image;
- generate a signal to compute a contact position when receiving the contact input;
- compute the contact position based on the signal; and

~~determine whether a prescribed relationship is established between the contact position and an object display position, wherein the image processing provides prescribed image processing of the object when it has been determined that the prescribed relationship has been established.~~

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~~23.~~ An image processing system comprising:

an image processing module for moving an object;

a display module for causing the display of an image based on the image processing;

a contact input module for receiving a contact input when contact occurs within a predetermined distance from the object and for generating a signal to compute a contact position when receiving the contact input; and

a determiner module for determining whether a prescribed relationship is established between the contact position and an object display position, wherein the image processing provides prescribed image processing of the object when it has been determined that the prescribed relationship has been established.

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~~24.~~ The image processing system of claim 21 further including:

a point calculator module for awarding points when the prescribed relationship has been established by the determiner.

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~~25.~~ An image processing device comprising:

an image processor for executing image processing to move an object;

a display for displaying an image based on the image processing;

a contact unit movably provided and brought into contact with the display;

an input module for generating a signal position when the contact unit is brought into contact with the display;

a position module for computing the contact position based on the signal generated by the input module; and

~~a determiner module for determining whether a prescribed relationship is established between the contact position and an object display position, where said image processor provides prescribed image processing of the object when a prescribed relationship has been established.~~

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~~26~~. The image processing device of claim 23, wherein the contact unit is a hammer-type input device.

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~~27~~. The image processing device of claim 23, wherein the contact unit includes a vibration switch for detecting the contact with the display.

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~~28~~. The image processing device of claim 23, wherein the contact unit includes a photoreceiver for receiving the brightness data of the display.

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~~29~~. The image processing device of claim 26, wherein the position module receives brightness data from the photoreceiver to compute the contact position.

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~~30~~. The image processing device of claim 26, wherein the contact unit includes an optic fiber for sending brightness data of the display to the photoreceiver.

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~~31~~. The image processing device of claim 26, wherein the photoreceiver is provided within a photodetector substrate of the contact unit.

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~~32~~. The image processing device of claim 29, wherein the photodetector substrate is located in a case unit affixed to the side of the contact unit.

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~~32.~~ The image processing device of claim 23, wherein the prescribed relationship is established if the contact position is within a predetermined distance from the object display position.

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~~33.~~ The image processing device of claim 31, wherein if the prescribed relationship is established the prescribed image processing causes the disappearance of the image on the display.

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~~34.~~ The ~~image processing device of claim 23, wherein the~~ predetermined distance from the object display position forms a rectangular target area around the object.

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~~35.~~ The image processing device of claim 23, wherein the display includes a protective cover.

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~~36.~~ The image processing device of claim 23, wherein the display includes a surface forming an angle in a range from 3 to 17 degrees from a vertical direction.

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~~37.~~ The image processing device of claim 23, wherein the contact unit includes a buffer for softening the impact on the display during the contact.

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~~38.~~ The image processing device of claim 23, wherein the contact unit includes a sound detector for detecting and receiving a resulting sound of the contact between the contact unit and the display.

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~~39.~~ The ~~image process device of claim 37, wherein the input module~~ receives sound signals from the sound detector for computing the contact position.